

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: MFM: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL
FEBRUARY 27, 1974

1. FOUR-COLUMN MARLISE SIMONS WRAPUP ARTICLE IN POST
FEBRUARY 27, "LOFTY WORDS, A FEW IDEAS; US, LATINS IN
NOT-SO-NEW DEBATE." LEAD PARAGRAPH: "PARTICIPANTS IN
LAST WEEK'S MEETING BETWEEN US SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER AND LA AND CARIBBEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CAME
AWAY WITH MIXED FEELINGS." ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT
DECLARATION OF TLATELOLCO LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM VINA DEL
MAR OR ROCKEFELLER REPORT. QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED LA AM-
BASSADOR: "KISSINGER DISMISSED (LATIN AMERICA) LONG AGO
AS THE DAGGER WHICH POINTS AT THE HEART OF ANTARTICA."
BUT INDICATED THAT ALLENDE'S FALL AND ENERGY CRISIS MAY
HAVE CHANGED KISSINGER'S MIND. ITEM STATED THAT KISSINGER'S
BASIC IDEAS PREVAILED IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE; AND THAT
KISSINGER "OBLIGED HIS HOST BY EXPRESSING TENTATIVE SUPPORT"
FOR ECHEVERRIA'S CHARTER. ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY MENTIONING
PROBLEMS CHILEAN FONMIN HAD, E.G., NOONE WELCOMED HIM
HOSTILE PRESS; AND THAT JAMAICAN FONMIN DEMANDED THAT
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KISSINGER SPEAK UP ON CUBA.

2. FEBRUARY 27 POST ALSO HAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED:

"KISSINGER'S LATIN SOJOURN;" LEAD SENTENCE: "IT IS A

FAIR MARK OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES

THAT THE THREE DAYS DR. KISSINGER SPENT IN MEXICO CITY MARKED HIS EFFECTIVE INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICA AND, OVERALL, HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ANY DEVELOPING REGION." STATED THAT KISSINGER HAD ASSURED WARM WELCOME BY WRAPPING UP PANAMA AND PERU BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON EVE OF MEETING, BUT THAT WHAT COUNTS MOST IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS "THE WHOLE BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING MONEY, AID, TRADE, TECHNOLOGY, AND NOW, ENERGY, TOO. FAR FROM BEING MATTERS SUBJECT TO QUICK INTENSIVE BURSTS OF BILATERAL DIPLOMACY, THESE REQUIRE PROLONGED EXECUTIVE ATTENTION AND, IN MANY CASES, THE COOPERATION OF CONGRESS AS WELL." LA FONMINS GAVE KISSINGER "CRASH COURSE IN NEW HEMISPHERIC REALITIES WHEN HE PROPOSED A NEW 'WESTERN HEMISPHERE COMMUNITY.'" NEGATIVE LA REACTION THIS PROPOSAL DUE TO LA FONMIN DISTASTE FOR CONCEPT AND FACT US STILL NOT READY READMIT CUBA TO "COMMUNITY." "A QUICK STUDY, DR. KISSINGER PROMPTLY DENIED WANTING TO FORM 'A POLITICAL BLOC.'" OAS, HEMISPHERE'S EXISTING "POLITICAL BLOC," PERHAPS NEVER BEEN LOOSER AND TO REMAIN USEFUL, "HAS GOT TO REDEFINE ITS SHAPE OR ROLE." FINAL PARAGRAPH: "LATIN AMERICA SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER FIVE YEARS TO GET THREE DAYS OF DR. KISSINGER'S TIME. THE LEVEL OF WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE SHOULD NOT RISE OR FALL ON THE UNCERTAINTIES OF ONE INDIVIDUAL'S CALENDAR. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO SHOW IT HAS MADE A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO TREAT LATIN AMERICA WITH THE SUSTAINED ATTENTION WHICH ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES REQUIRES." CASEY

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